REMARKS

Claims 1-51 were pending in this case. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 8, 15, 21, 31, 41, and 50. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, as recommended by the Examiner. Claims 5-8, 12-15, 18-21, 28-31, 37, 39-41, 46, and 48-50 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-4, 9-11, 16, 17, 22-27, 32-36, 38, 42-45, 47, 51, and 52 are now in allowable form and Applicant respectfully requests a notice to this effect.

Applicant also traversed the Examiner's objections to the drawings and the specification. Applicant submits that with the amendments to the specification submitted with this response, the drawings and the specification are in acceptable form.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a notice of allowance for pending claims 1-4, 9-11, 16, 17, 22-27, 32-36, 38, 42-45, 47, 51, and 52.

December 20, 2004

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